ing connections as on 31-1-1989 is 88, and the waiting list is 164.

(b) There is no proposal at present to expand the above exchange due to paucity of resources.

(c) Land is available for construction of a Telephone exchange building but construction has not so far been taken up due to paucity of funds.

Post offices in Kerala

492. SHRI THOMAS KUTHIRAVATTOM: Will the Minister of COM MUNICATIONS be pleased to state.

(a) whether there is any proposal to convert any post office in Kerala into head post office in the near future;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether the main post office in Ettumanur in Kottayam district of Kerala will be converted into a head post office during the next plan; and

(d) whether a telegraph sub-division exists at Ettumanur in Kottayam district of Kerala?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) and (b) No, sir.

(c) A Head Post Office is created on the basis of norms laid down for the purpose. Creation of Head Post Office at Ettumanur is not justified as per these norms Moreover, creation of Head Post Offices does trot come under the purview of Plan schemes. It is, therefore, not possible to say whether the said office would be converted to a Head Post Office at this stage.

(d) No, .Sir.

Thermal Power Plant at Kayankulam

493. SHRI THOMAS KUTHIRAVATTOM: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) wrjethtfrjhe thermal power plant at Kayankulam in Kerala is to get aid from USSR; and

(b) if so, what will be the total amount and by when the plant will start production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) According to the Inter-Governmental Protocol signed between India and USSR on 20th Noverm-ber, 1988, the Government of USSR has agreed to cooperate in the setting up of. amongst others, the Kayankulam Thermal Power Project in Kerala.

(b) The credit agreement to finalise the aid for the project is likely to be signed by March, 1989. The project is expected to be commissioned by the end of the Eighth Plan period.

Measures to lure private sector into power generation

494. SHRI PUTTAPAGA RADHAKRISHNA: PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: SHRI N. E. BALARAM: SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have worked out a package of measures to lure the private sector into the field of power generation;

(b) if so, whether necessary guidelines in this regard have already been issued;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(d) by when Government is likely to include the private sector in the field of power generation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) to (d) The policy with regard to the generation and distribution of electricity continues to be regulated by the Industrial Policy Resolution of 1956. The expansion of the exist-

ing privately-owned utilities or the establishment of new units in the private sector is not precluded under the Resolution.

The question of facilitating participation of the private sector in power, generation is receiving attention. The necessary modalities in this regard are also being, examined.

गांवों में एस॰ टी॰ डी॰ की सुविधा

495. **श्री मिर्जा इर्शादबेग:** क्या संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) चालू वर्ष में तथा अगामी वर्षों में देश के कौन-कौन से गांव को एस॰ टी॰ डी॰ की सुविधा उपलब्ध कराई जायेगी तथा इस संबंध में आठवीं पंचवर्षीय योजना के लक्ष्य क्या हैं;

(ख) गुजरात में साबरकांठा जिले में मोडासा, प्रांतिज, इडर, हिम्मतनगर, वायड, भिलोडा, मालपुर, मेंघरेज, खेडब्रह्म विजयनगर जैसे विभिन्न तालुका केन्द्रों को कब तक इस सुविधा से जोड़ दिया जायेगा; और

(ग) चालू वर्ष में तथा अगामी वर्ष में गुजरात राज्य के कितने जिलों तथा गांवों को यह सुविधा प्रदान कर दी जायेगी?

संचार मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री गिरिधर गोमांगो): (क) चालू वर्ष के दौरान किसी भी ग्राम में एस॰ टी॰ डी॰ सुविधा प्रदान करने का प्रस्ताव नहीं है। सातवीं एवं आठवीं पंचवर्षीय योजनाओं के अंतर्गत ग्रामों के लिए एस॰ टी॰ डी॰ सुविधा का विस्तार करना शामिल नहीं है।

(ख) चालू वर्ष में चालू वाले एस॰ टी॰ डी॰ कार्यक्रम में मोडासा को शामिल किया गया है। चालू योजना अवधि के दौरान अन्य तालुका केन्द्रों में एस॰ टी॰ डी॰ प्रदान करने की बाबत कोई योजना नहीं बनाई गई है।

(ग) 16 जिला मुख्यालयों में एस॰ टी॰ डी॰ सुविधा पहले से सुलभ है। दो जिला मुख्यालयों में 1989-90 में एस॰ टी॰ डी॰ सुविधा प्रदान किए जाने की योजना है।

Setting up of site selection committee for.Thermal Power Project

496. SHRI RAMNARAYAN GOSWAMI: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any site selection committee for setting up thermal power project;

(b) if so, who constituted the said committee and who are its members;

(c) what are the criteria for proposing a site for power plants;

(d) whether any site has been recommended by the site selection committee for setting up fifth thermal power project of DVC; and

(e) what is the reaction of Government to the said proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) and (b) A site selection committee has been set up by the Ministry of Energy (Department of Power) to indentify suitable sites for large thermal power stations. The composition of the committee is given in the enclosed statement *[see* below]

(c) Identification of suitable new sites for setting up large thermal power stations in different regions of the country is done keeping in view relevant tech-noeconomic consideration including:—

(a) availability of power grade coal and feasibility of its transportation;

(b) availability of water;

(c) availability of land for the power plant and ash disposal etc

(d) geological suitability of sites, soil conditions, and amenability to floods;

(e) Environmental considerations; and

(f) Evacuation of power to load centres.

(d) The report of the committee has not yet been received.'

(e) Does not arise in view (if reply to(d) above.